

FLAXTON
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health.

1917.



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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE
FLAXTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
FOR THE YEAR 1917.

To the Chairman and Members of the Flaxton
Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of submitting for your consideration my
Report for the year 1917.

The area of the District is 30,649 acres.

The estimated civil population is 7,411.

BIRTH-RATE.

The births registered are 98, 48 males and 50 females; 2 males
and 3 females are illegitimate. The birth-rate is 13·2 per 1,000
of the population. In 1916 the rate was 19·1. In 1915 it was
21·0. These figures show a very serious decline in the birth-rate.
There are 44 births less than in 1916.

DEATH-RATE.

The deaths registered are 181, 106 males and 75 females. Of
these 7 were under 1 year of age. The death-rate is 24·4 per
1,000 of the population. In 1916 it was 26·8. Deducting the
deaths in the Public Institutions and the population therefrom we
get a rate of 10·4. In 1916 it was 14·1. Adding the deaths of
residents who have died outside the District we get a rate of 12·2.

The infantile mortality rate is ·9 per 1,000 of the population,
and 72 per 1,000 births registered. In 1916 the rate was 91 per
1,000 births registered.

The Zymotic rate is 1·2.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1917.

There were 70 deaths as follows (these do not include deaths in the Public Institutions or residents who have died outside the District, but include the deaths of non-residents and military cases who have died in the District) :—Heart Diseases, 12; Tuberculosis, 3; Bronchitis, 6; Pneumonia, 8; Bright's Disease, 1; Influenza, 2; Cancer, 10; Diabetes, 3; Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis, 1; Gastro-Enteritis, 2; Rheumatic Fever, 1; Premature Birth, 1; Accidents, 2; Drowned, 1; other defined diseases, 16.

There were 6 deaths in the City Fever and Isolation Hospitals as follows :—Tuberculosis, 4; Scarlet Fever, 1; Diphtheria, 1.

At the North Riding Asylum there were 103 deaths as follows :—Heart Disease, 20; Tuberculosis, 11; Pneumonia, 6; Bronchitis, 5; Cancer, 3; Bright's Disease, 3; Gastro-Enteritis, 3; Diarrhœa, 1; Influenza, 2; other diseases of respiratory organs, 1; accidents, 1; other defined diseases, 47.

There were 12 deaths of residents who died outside the District as follows :—Cancer, 4; Heart Disease, 1; other diseases of Respiratory Organs, 1; other defined diseases, 6.

Of the 70 deaths registered 7 were under 1 year of age, 4 between 1 and 5, 4 between 5 and 15, 2 between 15 and 25, 21 between 25 and 65, and 31, 65 years of age and upwards, of the last, 13 were between 75 and 91 years of age.

Of the 103 deaths in the North Riding Asylum, 5 were between 15 and 25, 65 between 25 and 65, and 33, 65 years of age and upwards.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR.

There were 132 cases reported, against 63 in 1916. Scarlet Fever, 5; Diphtheria, 4; Erysipelas, 2; Tuberculosis, 7; Measles and German Measles, 114.

SCARLET FEVER (5 cases, in 1916 we had 14). Four of the 5 cases were children 7 years of age and under, and 1 aged 17 years. The first case reported was a girl 17 years of age at New Earswick,

in March, the second was at Huntington, the third at New Earswick, and the last two at Strensall. Four were removed to the Fever Hospital. There were no deaths. The disease was of a mild type. The fever in two of the cases had been contracted outside the District. By early removal to the Fever Hospital, and other precautions, we were able to prevent further extension of the disease.

DIPHTHERIA (4, against 6 in 1916). Three at Strensall and one at Haxby. The first case was notified in January, from Haxby, and was that of a boy, 11 years of age, a mild case. On examination of the premises the slop drain was found partly choked, and the spouting, etc., of the house was in a bad state of repair. The second was a woman, 28 years of age, at Strensall, an imported case. The third and fourth cases occurred in different houses at Strensall during July—there was no connection between the two. Minor sanitary defects were found at one of the houses which since have been remedied. One case was removed to the Fever Hospital, the others were efficiently isolated at home.

ERYSIPELAS (2, in 1916 we had 2). Both were adults, one at Claxton, and one at the North Riding Asylum.

TUBERCULOSIS (7 cases). These occurred as follows:—At Earswick, 1; Huntington Road, 1; Haxby, 1; Warthill, 1; Strensall, 1; Claxton, 1; Huntington, 1. Two proved fatal, children aged 2 and 3 years respectively. Three were admitted into the Aysgarth Sanatorium, the remainder receiving medical treatment at home. In addition to the above 7 cases, a patient who had been reported in 1916 was re-notified from the York County Hospital, having been admitted into that Institution for treatment. The houses were visited by the Inspector and myself, and advice given as to precautions, etc., to be observed, and any sanitary defects found received attention.

ENTERIC FEVER. In 1916 we had 13 cases notified. This year, I am pleased to say, the District has been free from the disease.

MEASLES AND GERMAN MEASLES (114 cases, against 20 in 1916). Thirteen were adults and 101 were 13 years of age or under. Nineteen were notified from Huntington, New Earswick, 24;

Haxby, 25; Wigginton, 14; Flaxton, 6; Stockton-on-Forest, 4; Earswick, 2; Strensall, 2; Bossall, 2; Harton, 2; Osbaldwick, 3; Warthill, 1; Gate Helmsley, 1; Towthorpe, 1; Sand Hutton, 1; Rawcliffe, 1; Lilling, 1; North Riding Asylum, 1; and 4 in different houses on Malton Road. There were no deaths. The disease was mild in type. It was prevalent throughout the whole district.

CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS. No cases were notified in the District apart from Military cases which are under the supervision of the Army Medical Authorities.

CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS.

The following Schools were closed on account of epidemics of disease :—

School.	Period of Closure.	Disease.
Flaxton	March 15th to April 6th	Measles.
Stockton-on-Forest ...	March 14th to April 6th	Measles.
Wigginton	June 5th to 26th	Measles.
Haxby... ..	June 25th to July 30th	Measles.
Huntington	July 12th to 27th	Measles.

REARING AND FEEDING OF INFANTS.

The Infantile Mortality rate for the District is highly satisfactory. Great interest is being taken throughout the country on this subject at the present time, and the Local Government Board have issued a circular letter urging that every possible measure should be taken to reduce the mortality amongst children. I would urge the Council to have distributed, as early as possible, throughout the District, a pamphlet on the " Rearing and Feeding of Infants." Good practical advice is given in these pamphlets, and if the instructions are carried out it would certainly help us in endeavouring to lower the infantile mortality rate. The Dairies, Cowsheds, etc., are regularly visited by the Inspector and he reports they are kept in a satisfactory condition. A clean and wholesome milk supply is one of the essential things necessary to child life.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

This is carried out by me personally. By the systematic inspection of school children numerous defects are found, and many

remedied; if neglected, serious consequences would follow. The general health of the school children is being much improved throughout the District.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT.

During the War, owing to the difficulty of execution, this Act is not being systematically carried out in the District. Improvements, however, as to defective ash-pits, privies, drains, etc., and other nuisances when found have had attention during the year.

WAR TIME ARRANGEMENTS.

Arrangement are in force for close co-operation with the Military Medical Officers in assisting them in any sanitary or protective measures that might be thought advisable in the District. All cases of infectious disease in proximity to camps or troops are at once notified to the Principal Medical Officer. The health of the troops stationed in the District has been good.

TABLES.

No Tables of Statistics are being issued by the Local Government Board this year but as they will be required after the War, I am tabulating them as heretofore.

I am, Mr. Chairman, and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ALWYN RAIMES, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

